

83-885

No. -

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ALEX STEVAS.

In the  
Supreme Court of the United States.

OCTOBER TERM, 1983.

BOSTON POLICE PATROLMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION, INC.,  
PETITIONER,

v.

PEDRO CASTRO, ET AL.,  
RESPONDENTS.

Petition for a Writ of Certiorari to the United States  
Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

FRANK J. McGEE,\*  
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**Question Presented.**

Whether the petitioner's claim that, as a result of the federal district court's unlawful modification of a prior remedial order, which modification was affirmed on appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, certain Boston police officers were suspended from employment in violation of a valid state civil service statute, has become moot as a result of the reinstatement of such officers even though the effects of the alleged unlawful modification, such as the suspended officers' temporary loss of employment and pay, have not been completely and irrevocably eradicated and there is no reasonable expectation that the alleged violation will not recur.

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BOSTON POLICE PATROLMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION, INC.,  
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v.

PEDRO CASTRO, ET AL.,  
RESPONDENTS.

**Petition for a Writ of Certiorari to the United States  
Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.**

The petitioner, Boston Police Patrolmen's Association, Inc., prays that a writ of certiorari issue to review the judgment of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit rendered in these proceedings on August 31, 1983.

**Opinions Below.**

On remand from this Court for consideration of mootness, the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit vacated the August 7, 1981 order of the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts and remanded the instant proceedings to that court with instructions to dismiss as moot the plaintiffs motion for modification.

The opinion and judgment of the Court of Appeals on the question of mootness is not yet reported and appears in Appendix A to this petition. The opinion and judgment of this Court, vacating the original judgment of the Court of Appeals and remanding for consideration of mootness, appears in Appendix B and is reported at \_\_\_\_ U.S. \_\_\_\_, 76 L. Ed. 2d 330 (1983). The original judgment of the Court of Appeals, affirming the memorandum order and opinion of the District Court, appears in Appendix C and is reported at 679 F.2d 965 (1st Cir. 1982). The memorandum order and opinion of the District Court appears in Appendix D and is reported at 522 F. Supp. 873 (D. Mass. 1981).

### **Jurisdiction.**

The opinion and judgment of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit (Appendix A, *infra*) was rendered on August 31, 1983. The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1254 (1).

### **Constitutional Provisions Involved.**

#### **CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.**

##### ***Amendment X.***

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

### Statement of the Case.

This litigation was commenced in 1970 by unsuccessful black and hispanic candidates for appointment as Boston police officers. Their claim was that because of racial discrimination in the recruitment and certification procedures utilized by the city of Boston and the Massachusetts Civil Service Commission, they were effectively denied employment as police officers. The case was tried before Wyzanski, J., who entered a judgment after which an appeal was taken to the First Circuit. The Court of Appeals filed an opinion giving directions for further proceedings.

On remand, the District Court approved and entered a consent decree. *Castro v. Beecher*, 365 F. Supp. 655 (D. Mass. 1973).

In 1975, plaintiffs brought an action pursuant to the All Writs Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1651. That action was assigned to Chief Judge Caffrey, who has subsequently supervised all aspects of the case to date.

On July 7, 1975, the District Court approved a consent decree which was entered into by the parties as requested by the court. That decree provided for the establishment of priority certification groups for police applications, for an affirmative action recruitment program for black and hispanic applications and for procedures for administration and reporting with respect to police entrance examinations.

The District Court entered a supplemental consent decree in July, 1976. Again, on July 1, 1979, the District Court approved and entered an agreement which provided for the continuing applicability of the method and ratios for certification provided for by the 1975 decree and for further recruitment activity and monitoring of the Civil Service examination.

As a result of the implementation of the District Court's remedial orders, the representation of minorities in the Boston

Police Department increased from 2.3 percent in 1970 to 11.7 percent as of July 6, 1981.

Thereafter, on or about July 7, 1981, the Boston Police Department commenced a program of reductions in force of uniformed officers due to a "lack of funds." The program was scheduled for completion on August 18, 1981. When completed, these reductions would have reduced minority representation in the police force to 6.2 percent.

On April 6, 1981, plaintiffs moved to modify prior orders of the District Court. Specifically, an order was sought preserving the current levels of minority officers in the Boston Police Department.

The Boston Police Patrolmen's Association was allowed to intervene as a defendant on April 27, 1981. On August 7, 1981, the District Court issued a memorandum order and opinion modifying its prior remedial decrees. 522 F. Supp. 873 (D. Mass. 1981).

The defendant intervenor filed a notice of appeal on or about August 19, 1981.

On May 11, 1982, the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit upheld the District Court's August 7, 1981 orders enjoining the Boston Police and Fire Departments from laying off policemen and firefighters in a manner that would reduce the percentage of minority officers below the level obtaining at the commencement of layoffs in July, 1981. 679 F.2d 965 (1982). These orders had the effect of partially superseding the operation of the state's statutory last-hired, first-fired scheme for civil service layoffs, Mass. Gen. Laws c. 31, § 39.

Following the Court of Appeals' decision, Massachusetts enacted legislation providing the city of Boston with new revenues, requiring reinstatement of all police and firefighters laid off during the reductions in force, securing these personnel against future layoffs for fiscal reasons, and requiring the maintenance of minimum staffing levels in the police and fire

departments through June 30, 1983. See 1982 Mass. Acts, c. 190, § 25. In light of these changed circumstances, this Court on May 16, 1983, vacated the judgment of the Court of Appeals and remanded for consideration of mootness in light of 1982 Mass. Acts, c. 190, § 25.

On August 31, 1983, the Court of Appeals, on remand from this Court, entered a judgment vacating the District Court's order of August 7, 1981, and remanding the causes to that court with directions to dismiss as moot the plaintiffs' original motion for modification.

#### **Reasons for Granting the Writ.**

**I. THE PETITIONER'S CLAIM THAT, AS A RESULT OF THE FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT'S UNLAWFUL MODIFICATION OF A PRIOR REMEDIAL ORDER, WHICH MODIFICATION WAS AFFIRMED ON APPEAL TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIRST CIRCUIT, CERTAIN BOSTON POLICE OFFICERS WERE SUSPENDED FROM THEIR EMPLOYMENT IN VIOLATION OF A VALID STATE CIVIL SERVICE STATUTE, HAS NOT BECOME MOOT AS A RESULT OF THE REINSTATEMENT OF SUCH OFFICERS SINCE THE EFFECTS OF THE ALLEGED UNLAWFUL MODIFICATION, SUCH AS THE SUSPENDED OFFICERS' TEMPORARY LOSS OF EMPLOYMENT AND PAY, HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETELY AND IRREVOCABLY ERADICATED AND THERE IS NO REASONABLE EXPECTATION THAT THE ALLEGED VIOLATION WILL NOT RECUR.**

In *County of Los Angeles v. Davis*, 440 U.S. 625 (1979), this Court set forth the standard to be applied in determining whether a case or controversy has become moot. In its decision, the Court stated:

"Simply stated, a case is moot when the issues presented are no longer 'live' or the parties lack a legally cognizable interest in the outcome." *Powell v. McCormack*, 395 U.S. 486, 496 (1969). We recognize that, as a general rule, "voluntary cessation of allegedly illegal conduct does not deprive the tribunal of power to hear and determine the case, *i.e.*, does not make the case moot." *United States v. W.T. Grant Co.*, 345 U.S. 629, 632 (1953). But jurisdiction, properly acquired, may abate if the case becomes moot because

(1) it can be said with assurance that "there is no reasonable expectation. . ." that the alleged violation will recur, see *id.* at 633; see also *SEC v. Medical Committee For Human Rights*, 404 U.S. 403 (1972), and

(2) interim relief or events have completely and irrevocably eradicated the effects of the alleged violation. See *e.g.*, *DeFunis v. Odegaard*, 416 U.S. 312 (1974); *Indiana Employment Security Div. v. Burney*, 409 U.S. 540 (1973).

When both conditions are satisfied it may be said that the case is moot because neither party has a legally cognizable interest in the final determination of the underlying questions of fact and law.

The burden of demonstrating mootness "is a heavy one." See *United States v. W.T. Grant Co.*, *supra*, at 632-633.

440 U.S. at 631.

In the instant case, respondents have failed to satisfy that heavy burden. Respondents have failed to show that *both* conditions are satisfied and that *neither* party has a legally cognizable interest in the final determination of the underlying questions of fact and law.

The instant case arises from a decision made in 1981 by the city of Boston to lay off hundreds of firefighters and police officers in order to avoid an alleged financial crisis. By statute, Massachusetts requires that civil service layoffs occur in the order of reverse seniority. Mass. Gen. Laws c. 31, § 39. Many minority members of Boston's police and fire departments however, had been hired only recently pursuant to consent decrees in which the city of Boston agreed to increase the proportion of minorities in the departments in order to remedy its past discriminatory hiring practices. As a result, layoffs under the statutory last-hired, first-fired policy would have reduced significantly the minority representation in the two departments.

Because of these changed circumstances, respondents thus sought an order from the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts modifying the prior consent decrees. Respondents claimed that application of the seniority statute to the city's reduction in force program would frustrate the purpose of the prior consent decrees. The relief requested by the respondents however, was not that the court merely enjoin the city from reducing the percentage of minority representation in the police and fire departments. Rather, respondents requested that the court order an alternate method of conducting the layoffs — one which would allow the city to lay off senior non-minority firemen and police officers before junior minority firemen and police officers notwithstanding the state's last-hired, first-fired statute.

Respondents' request for relief was not opposed by the city. Such relief, if granted, would not only benefit the respondents but the city as well. The city's primary interest was to lay off a massive number of firemen and police officers in order to avoid an alleged financial crisis. If the respondents had merely requested that the city be enjoined from reducing the percentage of minority representation in the fire and police departments, the city, the effect, would have been precluded

by federal court order from laying off junior minority members and would have been precluded by state law from laying off senior non-minority members. Thus, the city would either have had to employ another available means or method, other than police and fire layoffs, to meet its alleged financial crisis or suffer the consequences of violating state or federal law. By requesting however, that the city be permitted to circumvent state law, the respondents provided a way for the city to implement its massive layoff program without federal or state repercussions — albeit at the expense of senior non-minority rather than junior minority, firemen and police officers. Thus, the relief requested by the respondents did not adversely affect, but rather benefitted, the interests of the city.

Such requested relief did however, adversely affect the interests of senior non-minority members of the city's police and fire departments. Moreover, such relief, if granted, would have the effect of superseding the operation of the state's statutory seniority scheme for civil service layoffs. Thus, the respondents claim for relief was opposed by the state civil service officials and the intervening police and fire unions. The opposing parties contended that the relief requested by the respondents, if granted, would constitute an impermissible and unjustified intrusion by the federal court upon a valid state statute. The opposing parties therefore requested that the court deny the respondents' claim for relief.

The case or controversy presented before the federal District Court was thus whether the court had the power or authority to supersede a valid state law and grant the respondents the relief they requested. The United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts decided that it had such power and the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit affirmed. After the Court of Appeals decision, however, Massachusetts enacted legislation providing the city of Boston with new revenues, requiring it to reinstate all police officers and

firemen laid off during the city's alleged fiscal crisis, and securing those persons against future layoffs for fiscal reasons. 1982 Mass. Acts. c. 190, § 25 (hereinafter referred to as the Tregor Act).

The relief provided by the Tregor Act, however, did not completely and irrevocably eradicate the effects of the federal District Court's alleged unlawful preemption of the state's statutory seniority system. The Tregor Act merely provided reinstatement of those firemen and police officers who were laid off by the city in accordance with the federal District Court's orders. The Tregor Act did not provide any relief or compensation to those persons for the time period during which they had been unlawfully laid off.

Moreover, it cannot be said with assurance that there is no reasonable expectation that the alleged violation will recur. Although the Tregor Act required the city to reinstate those officers who had been laid off in 1981 and prohibited the city from laying off those officers in the future for lack of funds, the Act only provided employment security until June 30, 1983, for those officers who had not been laid off in 1981. Thus, after June 30, 1983, the city was and is currently free to return to its old ways and in the event of such future layoffs, it is not unreasonable to expect that without a dispositive ruling by this Court on the legality of the federal District Court's prior remedial orders, the federal District Court will again unlawfully suspend state law and that senior non-minority officers will again be unlawfully subjected to loss of employment and pay.

Thus, in the instant case, neither of the two conditions for mootness set forth by this Court in *County of Los Angeles v. Davis, supra*, have been satisfied. The Tregor Act has not completely and irrevocably eradicated the effects of the federal district court's unlawful usurpation of power and it cannot be said with assurance that there is no reasonable expectation that the alleged violation will recur.

The respondents profess however, that they no longer have a personal stake in the proceeding. The fact that the respondents were granted the relief they requested however, does not moot the controversy. The controversy still remains as to whether the federal District Court had the power or authority to grant such relief in the first place.

As this Court stated in *Carroll v. President and Commissioners of Princess Anne*, 393 U.S. 175, 179 (1968):

This conclusion — that the question is not moot and ought to be adjudicated by this Court — is particularly appropriate in view of this Court's decision in *Walker v. Birmingham*, 388 U.S. 307 (1967). In that case, the Court held that demonstrators who had proceeded with their protest march in face of the prohibition of an injunctive order against such a march could not defend contempt charges by asserting the unconstitutionality of the injunction. The proper procedure, it was held, was to seek judicial review of the injunction and not to disobey it, no matter how well-founded their doubts might be as to its validity. Petitioners have here pursued the course indicated by *Walker*; and in view of the continuing vitality of petitioners' grievances, we cannot say that their case is moot.

The state officials involved in the instant case have similarly pursued the course indicated by *Walker*. Despite their doubts as to the validity of the federal District Court's intrusion on the state's seniority statute, the state officials obeyed the court's orders and sought judicial review. In view of the adverse effect which such orders had, and continue to have, on those persons whom the state law was designed to protect, the state officials have a genuine public interest in having the legality of

the federal court's action settled. This is especially true since it appears that the legality or illegality of the federal court's action will play a substantial role in the state officials' response as to whether those persons laid off in violation of the state's seniority statute are entitled to back pay and damages.

In *County of Los Angeles v. Davis, supra*. Mr. Justice Powell, in his dissenting opinion joined by Mr. Chief Justice Burger, stated:

Furthermore, the Court's avoidance of the merits of this controversy by its novel view of mootness leaves the county in a quandary. Although it is not unreasonable to assume, following dismissal of this suit as moot, that the county will again base hiring on unvalidated aptitude tests, it also is possible that the county may believe that hiring procedures of the sort previously required by the order under review are necessary to ensure compliance with federal law. The Court's disposition today will leave the decision of the Court of Appeals on the merits as the most pertinent statement of the governing law, even if that decision is not directly binding. Therefore, any future litigation against the county, including the suit to assert the rights of pre-1971 applicants that the Court seems to contemplate, *ante*, at 630 n.3, is likely to be controlled by the decision of that court.

In sum, the Court's disposition leaves all of the parties in positions of uncertainty: Respondents lack protection against the resumption of the county's alleged discrimination, and the county lacks a conclusive determination of the legality of its conduct. All of these considerations militate against a determination of mootness. See *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.*, 435 U.S. 519, 535-537, n.14 (1978). Accordingly, I conclude that the question of

whether petitioners violated § 1981 is before us. I would reach this issue and determine whether § 1981, like the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, prohibits only purposefully discriminatory conduct.

440 U.S. at 646-647 (footnotes omitted).

These same or similar considerations militate against a determination of mootness in the instant case.

#### Conclusion.

For the reasons stated above, a writ of certiorari should issue to review the judgment and opinion of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

Respectfully submitted,  
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## **Appendix.**

Appendix A — Opinion and Judgment of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit on remand from this Court for consideration of mootness	1a
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Appendix A.

**United States Court of Appeals  
for the First Circuit.**

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No. 81-1642

**BOSTON CHAPTER, NAACP, ET AL.,  
PLAINTIFFS, APPELLEES,**

v.

**NANCY B. BEECHER, ET AL.,  
DEFENDANTS, APPELLEES.**

**BOSTON FIREFIGHTERS UNION, LOCAL 718,  
INTERVENOR, APPELLANT.**

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No. 81-1650

**PEDRO CASTRO, ET AL.,  
PLAINTIFFS, APPELLEES,**

v.

**NANCY B. BEECHER, ET AL.,  
DEFENDANTS, APPELLEES.**

**BOSTON POLICE PATROLMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.,  
INTERVENOR, APPELLANT.**

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No. 81-1651

**PEDRO CASTRO, ET AL.,  
PLAINTIFFS, APPELLEES,**

v.

**NANCY B. BEECHER, ET AL.,  
DEFENDANTS, APPELLANTS.**

No. 81-1656

BOSTON CHAPTER, NAACP, ET AL.,  
PLAINTIFFS, APPELLEES,

v.

NANCY B. BEECHER, ET AL.,  
DEFENDANTS, APPELLEES.

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CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION, ET AL.,  
DEFENDANTS, APPELLANTS.

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APPEALS FROM THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS  
[Hon. Andrew A. Caffrey, *U.S. District Judge*]

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Before

Campbell, *Chief Judge*,  
Bownes, *Circuit Judge*,  
and Perez-Gimenez, \* *District Judge*.

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*Thomas A. Barnico*, Assistant Attorney General, with whom *Francis X. Bellotti*, Attorney General, *Thomas R. Kiley*, First Assistant Attorney General, *E. Michael Sloman*, Assistant Attorney General, and *Marc S. Seigle*, Special Assistant Attorney General, were on brief, for Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

*John F. McMahon*, with whom *E. David Wanger*, and *Angoff, Goldman, Manning, Pyle & Wanger, P.C.* were on brief, for Boston Firefighters Union, Local 718.

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\* Of the District of Puerto Rico, sitting by designation.

*Frank J. McGee*, with whom *Law Office of Frank J. McGee* was on brief, for Boston Police Patrolmen's Association, Inc.

*James S. Dittmar*, with whom *Peggy A. Wiesenber*g, *Richard R. Lavin*, *Matthew D. Baxter* and *Widett, Slater & Goldman* were on brief, for plaintiffs, appellees.

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August 31, 1983

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**PER CURIAM.** This case is before the court on remand from the Supreme Court for consideration of mootness. The facts and prior proceedings are fully traced in this court's previous opinion, *Boston Chapter, NAACP v. Beecher*, 679 F.2d 965 (1st Cir. 1982). Since 1975, the Boston police and fire departments have been subject to consent decrees requiring preferential hiring of minorities to relieve the effects of prior discrimination. In 1981, facing proposed fiscal layoffs which would substantially vitiate any progress made under the decrees, plaintiffs sought and obtained modification of the original decrees. *Castro v. Beecher*, 522 F. Supp. 873 (D. Mass. 1981). The modifying order prohibited both Boston departments from reducing minority percentages in their workforces, with the practical result that non-minority firemen and police officers would have to be laid off before junior [sic] minority firemen and police officers notwithstanding the state's last-hired, first-fired statute.

The modification was affirmed on appeal to this court in the above-cited case, and defendants obtained certiorari from the Supreme Court. Meanwhile, however, Massachusetts enacted the so-called Tregor Act mandating reinstatement of all police and firefighters laid off during the reduction in force. See 1982 Mass. Acts, c. 190, § 25. The Supreme Court therefore

vacated this court's judgment and remanded for consideration of mootness.

"The usual rule in federal cases is that an actual controversy must exist at stages of appellate or certiorari review . . ." *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113, 125 (1973); *Golden v. Zwickler*, 394 U.S. 103 (1969). When, as here, intervening acts destroy the interest of a party to the adjudication, the case is mooted, *DeFunis v. Odegaard*, 416 U.S. 312 (1974). The Trevor Act's mandatory reinstatement of the laid off police and firefighters and its requirement of minimum staffing levels through June 30, 1983 removed plaintiffs' stake in the proceeding which they had instituted in 1981 at a time when layoffs were taking place.

This is not an example of the "voluntary cessation of allegedly illegal conduct" which does not render a case moot. *United States v. W.T. Grant Co.*, 345 U.S. 629, 632 (1953). Rather the city of Boston has acted pursuant to a supervening state statute. Furthermore, the case does not present a question "capable or [sic] repetition, yet evading review." *Southern Pacific Terminal Co. v. ICC*, 219 U.S. 498, 515 (1911). Future layoffs might occur, but there is no reason to assume that a similar state enactment would once again render the case moot before resolution by the Supreme Court.<sup>1</sup>

Appellants' contention that the case remains alive because the modifying order prohibits the adjudication of state Civil Service Commission claims for back pay is not persuasive. According to the established practice of the federal courts, when a case is found moot, the district court's judgment will be vacated. *United States v. Munsingwear, Inc.*, 340 U.S. 36, 39 (1950). Thus even assuming, which we do not decide, that the

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<sup>1</sup> The Supreme Court has granted certiorari on a case presenting the same issue as the case before us. *Stotts v. Memphis Fire Department*, 679 F.2d 541 (6th Cir. 1982), cert. granted, 51 U.S.L.W. 3871 (June 6, 1983) (No. 82-229). Thus that question may be resolved within the near future.

district court's order directly inhibits the state Civil Service Commission respecting the back pay claims, it will no longer do so. To be sure, a definitive ruling on the constitutionality of the district court's past order might facilitate the Civil Service Commission's resolution of the back pay claims. But such a ruling now — rendered in the absence of a present case or controversy in this proceeding — would amount to no more than an advisory opinion. The federal courts are forbidden by Article III of the Constitution from giving advisory opinions. *See, e.g., North Carolina v. Rice*, 404 U.S. 244 (1971); *St. Pierre v. United States*, 319 U.S. 41 (1942). Appellants' interest in the resolution of this case shows that the issue here may retain some collateral vitality, but to avoid mootness a case must present both live issues and parties with legally cognizable interests. *United States Parole Commission v. Geraghty*, 445 U.S. 388, 396 (1980). Plaintiffs now lack the "personal stake" necessary to keep alive the controversy which engendered this proceeding. The Civil Service Commission must therefore be left to decide the back pay claims under the governing state law without an advisory resolution of the constitutional issue by the federal courts.

Accordingly, we vacate the district court's order of August 7, 1981 and remand to the district court to dismiss as moot the motion for modification, without prejudice to further actions under the district court's continuing jurisdiction to monitor the original consent decrees. *Crowell v. Mader*, 444 U.S. 505, 506 (1980); *Diffenderfer v. Central Baptist Church*, 404 U.S. 412, 415 (1972); *Romero-Barcelo v. Brown*, 643 F.2d 835, 862 (1st Cir. 1981).

*Vacated and Remanded.*

**Appendix B.**

NOTICE: This opinion is subject to formal revision before publication in the preliminary print of the United States Reports. Readers are requested to notify the Reporter of Decisions, Supreme Court of the United States, Washington, D. C. 20543, of any typographical or other formal errors, in order that corrections may be made before the preliminary print goes to press.

**Supreme Court of the United States**

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Nos. 82-185, 82-246 AND 82-259

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BOSTON FIREFIGHTERS UNION, LOCAL 718,  
PETITIONER

82-185 v.

BOSTON CHAPTER, NAACP, ET AL.

BOSTON POLICE PATROLMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.,  
PETITIONER

82-246 v.

PEDRO CASTRO ET AL.

NANCY B. BEECHER, ET AL., PETITIONERS

82-259 v.

BOSTON CHAPTER, NAACP, ET AL.

ON WRITS OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE FIRST CIRCUIT

[MAY 16, 1983]

PER CURIAM.

In these cases, the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit upheld the District Court's August 7, 1981 orders

enjoining the Boston Police and Fire Departments from laying off policemen and firefighters in a manner that would reduce the percentage of minority officers below the level obtaining at the commencement of layoffs in July, 1981. 679 F.2d 965 (1982). These orders had the effect of partially superseding the operation of the state's statutory last-hired, first-fired scheme for civil service layoffs, Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 31, § 39. Following the Court of Appeals' decision, Massachusetts enacted legislation providing the City of Boston with new revenues, requiring reinstatement of all police and firefighters laid off during the reductions in force, securing these personnel against future layoffs for fiscal reasons, and requiring the maintenance of minimum staffing levels in the police and fire departments through June 30, 1983. See 1982 Mass. Acts, c. 190, § 25. In light of these changed circumstances, we vacate the judgment of the Court of Appeals and remand for consideration of mootness in light of 1982 Mass. Acts, c. 190, § 25.

*It is so ordered.*

JUSTICE MARSHALL took no part in the consideration or decision of these cases.

Appendix C.

**United States Court of Appeals  
for the First Circuit**

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Nos. 81-1642

81-1656

81-1650

81-1651

BOSTON CHAPTER, NAACP, ET AL.,  
PLAINTIFFS-APPELLEES,  
v.

NANCY B. BEECHER, ET AL.,  
DEFENDANTS-APPELLANTS,  
and

BOSTON FIREFIGHTERS UNION, LOCAL 718  
INTERVENOR-APPELLANT.

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PEDRO CASTRO, ET AL.,  
PLAINTIFFS-APPELLEES,  
v.

NANCY BEECHER, ET AL.,  
DEFENDANTS-APPELLANTS,  
and

BOSTON POLICE PATROLMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.,  
INTERVENOR-APPELLANT.

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APPEALS FROM THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FROM THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS  
[HON. ANDREW A. CAFFREY, U.S. District Judge]  
(522 F. Supp. 873)

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Before  
CAMPBELL, BOWNES and BREYER,  
*Circuit Judges.*

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*E. David Wanger*, with whom *John F. McMahon*, and *Angoff, Goldman, Manning, Pyle & Wanger, P.C.* were on brief, for Intervenor, Appellant Local 718 in Case No. 81-1642.

*Frank J. McGee*, on brief for Intervenor-Appellant Boston Police Patrolmen's Association, Inc.

*Thomas A. Barnico*, Assistant Attorney General, Government Bureau, Department of the Attorney General, with whom *Francis X. Bellotti*, Attorney General, was on brief, for the State Defendants-Appellants in Case No. 81-1651.

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May 11, 1982

*BOWNES*, *Circuit Judge*. This case arises from a conflict between a statutorily established seniority system mandating layoffs on a last hired, first fired basis and court orders insulating a percentage of minorities from such a system. Shortly after the July 1981 beginning of fiscal 1982, the Police and Fire Department of the City of Boston embarked upon a program of massive reductions in force, allegedly precipitated by budgetary restrictions imposed by "Proposition 2 ½." During the six-year period prior to the commencement of the layoffs, both departments had been steadily increasing the percentage of

their black and hispanic members pursuant to consent decrees designed to remedy the present and continuing effects of past racial discrimination. The consent decrees were silent as to layoffs. If this reduction in force were conducted according to strict seniority as prescribed by Massachusetts law,<sup>1</sup> roughly half of the blacks and hispanics hired would be laid off. To prevent this substantial undoing of the progress made in integrating blacks and hispanics into the police and fire departments, the district court granted plaintiffs' motions in these four consolidated cases to modify the prior consent decrees by prohibiting both departments from reducing the percentage of blacks and hispanics in their respective work forces below the level obtaining at the commencement of the force-reduction program. Defendant Massachusetts Civil Service Commission (the Commission) and intervenors Boston Firefighters Union, Local 718, and Boston Police Patrolmen's Association, Inc., have appealed.

There are three fundamental issues: did the district court have the power to modify the consent decrees and, if so, did its orders impermissibly supersede a valid Massachusetts civil service statute or unconstitutionally impose reverse discrimination.

In order to understand the issues and to analyze properly the district court's modification of the consent decrees, it is necessary to begin by tracing the prior proceedings.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 31, § 5.

<sup>2</sup> We refer throughout this opinion to *Castro et al. v. Beecher et al.*, and related proceedings as the "police case." The police case is reported at 334 F. Supp. 930 (D. Mass. 1971); 459 F.2d 725 (1st Cir. 1972); 365 F. Supp. 855 (D. Mass. 1973); 386 F. Supp. 1281 (D. Mass. 1975). Similarly, we refer to *Boston Chapter, NAACP, Inc., et al. v. Beecher, et al.*, and related proceedings as the "fire case." The fire case is reported at 371 F. Supp. 507 (D. Mass. 1974); 504 F.2d 1017 (1st Cir. 1974), *cert. denied*, 421 U.S. 910 (1975); 423 F. Supp. 696 (D. Mass. 1976). Both the police and fire cases were reported most recently in Chief Judge Caffrey's consolidated opinion, 522 F. Supp. 873 (D. Mass. 1981), from which this appeal arises.

*The Police Case*

Plaintiffs, unsuccessful black and hispanic candidates for appointment as Boston police officers, commenced the police action in 1970. They claimed racial discrimination in violation of 42 U.S.C. §§ 1981 and 1983 in connection with the recruitment and certification practices established by the Massachusetts Civil Service Commission and implemented, through appointment procedures, by the Boston Police Department as well as other appointing authorities,<sup>3</sup> including other Massachusetts cities and towns and various state agencies. *Castro et al. v. Beecher et al.*, 334 F. Supp. 930, 934 (D. Mass. 1971) (Wyzanski, J.).

Following trial, the district court made extensive findings, including findings that in 1970, blacks represented 16.3 percent of the population of Boston but only 3.6 percent of its police force. The district court also found that the 1968-1970 Massachusetts Civil Service Police Entrance Examinations were not job related and discriminated against minorities, including plaintiffs, who did not share "prevailing white culture." *Id.* at 943. It enjoined the Commission from issuing further certifications based on these examinations.

We held on appeal that the examinations were racially discriminatory, and remanded the case with instructions that the district court enter a remedial order requiring a nondiscriminatory, job-related examination and providing for certification of black and hispanic applicants on a priority basis, to be determined in accordance with guidelines that we set forth. *Castro et al. v. Beecher et al.*, 459 F.2d 725, 730-31, 737-38 (1st Cir. 1972). We noted that the prescribed remedy "will yield a significant increment of black and Spanish-surnamed

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<sup>3</sup> Among the named defendants were the Metropolitan District Commission, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, and the Capitol Police. 334 F. Supp. at 934.

police officers in the near term" and insisted that relief fashioned by the district court "is to be more than token." *Id.* at 737.

On remand, after observing that unlike most consent decrees, this one had been preceded by full hearings, findings of fact, conclusions of law and several opinions both of the district and appellate courts, the district court approved a comprehensive consent decree, finding that it was "just, reasonable, and in the public interest, and more likely than any other proposed solution to give the people of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts effective, non-discriminatory, dedicated, and honorable police forces . . ." 365 F. Supp. 655, 660 (D. Mass. 1973). The decree provided, among other measures, for the creation of civil service certification priority pools, consisting of black and hispanic applicants, and for the implementation of affirmative recruitments programs aimed at this group. *Id.* at 660-62.

In 1975 plaintiffs instituted another action under the All Writs Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1651, seeking to clarify and preserve the effect of the district court's decree in light of litigation that had taken place in Massachusetts courts relating to the rights of cities and towns to grant statutory preferences to residents and veterans in appointing police officers. The court (Caffrey, C.J.) held that the prior decree did not displace these statutory preferences except insofar as the preferences must be applied within the several groups of applicants established by the decree. 386 F. Supp. 1281, 1285 (D. Mass. 1975). It urged that the parties agree upon a substitute consent decree and recommended they follow the one adopted in the fire case, *Boston Chapter, NAACP, Inc. v. Beecher et al.*, 371 F. Supp. 507 (D. Mass. 1974), *aff'd*, 504 F.2d 1017 (1st Cir.), *cert. denied*, 421 U.S. 910 (1975). *Id.* at 1286.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup>The consent decree finally agreed upon in the police case directed that four groups of eligible police officer candidates be established for each requisitioning police department:

Thereafter the parties entered into a further consent decree, which the district court approved on July 7, 1975. This decree mandated, among other things, certification of police applicants by methods essentially designed to facilitate the appointment in Boston and Springfield of one minority police officer for each white officer, and to expedite minority appointments by other appointing authorities on a ratio of one to three. The decree provided that these remedial measures should apply to any city or town with a minority population of one percent or more until the police force of the municipality "achieves a complement of minorities commensurate with the percentage of minorities within the community," at which time further certification would be made according to existing Massachusetts law.<sup>5</sup> The same parity target had already been set in the fire case.

On July 13, 1976, and on June 1, 1979, the district court approved and entered supplemental consent decrees that provided, among other measures, for continuation of the consent decree's method and ratios for certification, for further affirmative recruitment activities, and for monitoring of the civil service examination. They also discharged from further judicial

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Group A consisted of minority applicants who failed discriminatory police entrance exams administered between 1968-1970 but who passed the 1972 interim exam and were otherwise qualified;

Group B consisted of persons on three eligibility lists established in 1970-1971;

Group C consisted of minority candidates not in Group A who passed the 1972 interim examination and were otherwise qualified;

Group D consisted of all other persons who passed the 1972 interim exam and were otherwise qualified.

The consent decree in the fire case contained essentially identical groups of candidates, except it stated that the discriminatory exams targeted by the priority pools were administered from August 1968 to August 1971.

<sup>5</sup>This parity target also applied to the state agencies enumerated in note 3 *supra*, relative to the percentage of minorities in the communities served by those agencies.

supervision the police departments of cities and towns that had attained the parity target according to then current census statistics.

In the spring of 1981, the Boston Police Department initiated the reduction in force program. Thereafter, on April 6, 1981, plaintiffs filed a motion pursuant to Federal Rule Civil Procedure 60(b) to modify prior remedial orders. Following state funding legislation that led to a rescinding of the layoff program for fiscal 1981, plaintiffs requested that the court continue their motion until the program was reinstated. In the first week of July 1981 the police department reactivated the layoff program, and on July 30, 1981, the district court (Caffrey, C.J.) heard plaintiffs' motion together with a similar motion in the fire case. On August 7, 1981, the opinion and order issued enjoining the Boston Police Department and Fire Department from reducing the percentage of minority officers below the level existing at the commencement of the layoff program.

#### *The Fire Case*

Unsuccessful black and hispanic applicants for appointment as City of Boston fire fighters and the Boston Chapter of the NAACP commenced the fire case in 1972. As in the police case, the plaintiffs claimed racial discrimination in violation of 42 U.S.C. §§ 1981 and 1983 in connection with recruitment and certification practices established by the Massachusetts Civil Service Commission and implemented, through appointing procedures, by the Boston Fire Department as well as by other appointing authorities.

In 1973 the Attorney General of the United States brought an action raising similar claims, together with Title VII claims, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e *et seq.*, and the two actions were consolidated.

Following hearings, the district court made extensive findings, including findings that blacks represented approximately 16 percent of Boston's population, that the combined minority population was 23 percent of the total, and that blacks and hispanics represented only 0.9 percent of the fire department's sworn personnel. *Boston Chapter, NAACP, Inc. v. Beecher et al.*, 371 F. Supp. at 514 (Freedman, J.). The court treated the hearings on plaintiffs' challenge to the fire fighters' entrance examination as a trial on the merits pursuant to Federal Rule Civil Procedure 65(a)(2) and found that plaintiffs had established an unrebutted case of racial discrimination. The court found, as evidenced by the "insignificant" number of blacks and hispanics certified, that the examinations administered from 1968 through August 1971 were discriminatory. It also found that the word-of-mouth recruitment policy resulted in racial discrimination, albeit unintentional. *Id.* at 510, 517 & 519-20.\*

To afford "affirmative relief to remedy the present effects of past discrimination," the district court ordered a program of active recruitment of minority fire fighters, enjoined further certification based upon the results of the discriminatory examinations, ordered development of a job-related examination, and required establishment of priority certification groups for black and hispanic applicants. *Id.* at 520-23. It ordered that the remedial measures mandated by its decree remain in force for any city or town with a minority population greater than one per cent until the fire department of the municipality "achieves a complement of minorities commensurate with the

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\* The district court concluded that defendants had not rebutted plaintiffs' *prima facie* case of discrimination established by the statistical disparity between the percentage of minority fire fighters in various fire departments and the relevant local population; it found that the entrance exams were not job related. *Boston Chapter, NAACP, Inc. v. Beecher et al.*, 371 F. Supp. 507, 517 (D. Mass. 1974), citing *Castro et al. v. Beecher et al.*, 459 F.2d 725, 732 (1st Cir. 1972).

percentage of minorities within the community" at which time "certifications will be made according to existing Massachusetts law." *Id.* at 523.

We affirmed, holding that plaintiffs had demonstrated that the Massachusetts civil service test had a disproportionate impact on minority hiring and that defendants had not demonstrated job relatedness. *Boston Chapter, NAACP, Inc. v. Beecher et al.*, 504 F.2d 1017 (1st Cir. 1974), *cert. denied*, 421 U.S. 910 (1975). *See also Griggs v. Duke Power Co.*, 401 U.S. 424 (1971). Regarding the subject of an appropriate remedy, we noted that in the police case we had required the district court to institute remedial measures "as a means of ameliorating the continuing effects of past discrimination . . ." *Id.* at 1026. We approved the district court's decree, including the provision that the decree would remain in effect until any particular fire department attains "sufficient minority fire fighters to have a percentage on the force approximately equal to the percentage of minorities in the locality." *Id.* at 1027. We reasoned that the district court's color-conscious relief did not violate the Constitution because it "goes no further than to eliminate the lingering effects of previous practices that bore more heavily than was warranted on minorities," *id.*, and that "our society [is] well served by taking into account color in the fashion used and carefully limited in extent and duration . . ." *Id.* We also rejected defendants' contention that the relief was barred by section 703(j)<sup>7</sup> of Title VII, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-2(j). *Id.* at 1027-28.

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<sup>7</sup>Section 703(j) of Title VII provides:

Nothing contained in this subchapter shall be interpreted to require any employer, employment agency, labor organization, or joint labor-management committee subject to this subchapter to grant preferential treatment to any individual or to any group because of the race, color, religion, sex, or national origin of such individual or group on account of an imbalance which may exist with respect to the total number or percentage of persons of any race, color, religion, sex, or national ori-

Since the 1974 decree, the district court has entered several interim consent decrees and stipulations to effectuate its original order. These subsequent orders have set procedures for administration of new examinations, establishment of eligibility lists, affirmative recruitment, and notice and reporting.

On April 7, 1981, upon commencement by the City of Boston of its force-reduction program, plaintiffs filed a motion to modify prior remedial orders. As in the police case, proceedings were continued until the consolidated hearing on July 30, 1981. The injunction covering both departments issued on August 7.

### *The Facts*

The statistics are undisputed. At the time of the original filing of these actions, racial discrimination had led to the virtual exclusion of blacks and hispanics from Boston's Police and Fire Departments. In 1970, only 65 of 2,805 police officers were black or hispanic, representing but 2.3 percent of the total. 459 F.2d at 728 n.1, 730. As of 1974, only 18 of 1,983 fire fighters were black or hispanic, representing only 0.9 percent of the total. 371 F.Supp. at 514. In contrast, the minority population of Boston was more than 16 percent in 1970, 459 F.2d at 728, and approximately 23 percent by 1974. 504 F.2d at 1020 n.4.

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gin employed by any employer, referred or classified for employment by any employment agency or labor organization, admitted to membership or classified by any labor organization, or admitted to, or employed in, any apprenticeship or other training program, in comparison with the total number or percentage of persons of such race, color, religion, sex, or national origin in any community, State, section, or other area, or in the available work force in any community, State, section, or other area.

42 U.S.C. § 2000e-2(j).

The district court's remedial orders in both cases have produced marked progress eliminating the present and continuing effects of past discrimination. Between 1974 and 1980, the Boston Police Department hired 492 officers, of whom 213 (43 percent) were black or hispanic. As of July 6, 1981, 224 out of a total of 1,912 officers were black or hispanic; minority representation had risen to 11.7 percent. Between 1974 and 1980, the Boston Fire Department hired 553 fire fighters, of whom 248 (45 percent) were black or hispanic. On July 6, 1981, 248 out of a total of 1,690 fire fighters were black or hispanic; minority representation had increased in this department to 14.7 percent.

By 1980, however, the black and hispanic population of Boston had risen to between 29 and 30 percent, almost double the percentage of ten years prior.

Early in July 1981 both the Police and Fire Departments of the City of Boston commenced a systematic program of reduction in force. The city's program proposed six weekly layoffs, running from early July to mid-August. The police and fire departments planned to make these layoffs pursuant to the Massachusetts civil service statute, which requires separations from service in reverse order of seniority. Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 31, § 39.

Such a layoff program was certain to cause a devastating reduction in the number of black and hispanic officers on both forces. The police department planned to lay off 252 officers, of whom 122 were black or hispanic. Of the officers to be laid off, 48 percent were minority,<sup>8</sup> which comprised 54.5 percent

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<sup>8</sup>The Supreme Court has approved of racial preferences granted to "minority" groups of divergent composition. *Compare United Steelworkers of America v. Weber*, 443 U.S. 193 (1979) (blacks only) with *Fullilove, et al. v. Klutznick, Sec. of Commerce, et al.*, 448 U.S. 448 (1980) (Negroes, Spanish-speaking, Orientals, Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts). Throughout this opinion, our references to "minority" group members pertain to blacks and

of the department's entire complement of minority officers. The fire department planned to lay off 207 officers, of whom 113 (54.6 percent) were black or hispanic; this constituted 45.6 percent of all minorities on the force. Unbridled operation of the force-reduction program would have dramatically cut minority representation in both the police and fire departments. By mid-August 1981 only 103 of 1,660 police officers would have been black or hispanic, and minority representation would have fallen from 11.7 percent to 6.2 percent. By mid-August only 135 of 1,483 fire fighters would have been black or hispanic, and minority representation in that department would have dropped from 14.7 percent to 9.1 percent.

Moreover, although as of July 30, 1981, city officials intended to proceed with only six waves of layoffs, there was no certainty that further force reductions would not occur.

#### *The Decision Below*

In its August 7, 1981 consolidated opinion, the district court made the specific findings outlined above. It then found, on the basis of the entire record in both cases, that "the massive firings claimed by municipal authorities to be the result of the voters enacting Proposition 2½ amount to 'new and unforeseen conditions' . . ." *Castro et al. v. Beecher et al.*, 522 F.Supp. at 877. It ruled that, in light of the remedial objective of both consent decrees,

namely bringing minority representation up to a level approximating the percentage of the total population which the minorities represent in the community, . . . if any-

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hispanics only. Whether a particular individual qualifies as a "minority" group member entitled to relief according to this definition has not been raised by the parties and we proffer no opinion on that question.

thing similar to Proposition 2½ had been in effect at the time that the remedial decrees were entered, these decrees would have been fashioned to make allowances for terminations so that the minority representation on both departments could have been maintained if not increased notwithstanding the then hypothetically ongoing terminations.

*Id.*

The court also concluded that the denial of the relief sought would reverse the results of the court's prior remedies, would "allow the substantial eradication of all progress made by blacks and hispanics" in securing positions as police officers and fire fighters, and would produce a "grievous wrong." *Id.* Accordingly, the Boston Police Commissioner and Fire Commissioner were enjoined from reducing, "pursuant to any departmental or city program of reduction in force on account of lack of funds or abolition of position," the percentage of minority officers below that obtaining at the commencement of the program. *Id.* at 877-78. Neither the Police Commission nor the Fire Commissioner has appealed.

#### I. THE COURT'S POWER TO REVISE THE CONSENT DECREE

We initially determine whether the district court was empowered to modify its prior remedial orders because of the impending layoffs. At the outset we note that defendants settled both the police case, filed originally under sections 1981 and 1983, and the fire case, commenced under these sections as well as Title VII, by entering into remedial consent decrees. They did so only after the liability issues had been extensively litigated, resulting in well-supported determinations at the district and circuit levels (with certiorari having been sought

and denied in the fire case), that defendant's certification and recruiting procedures were discriminatory because they had produced an underrepresentation of blacks and hispanics in the police and fire departments, and that these procedures lacked justification in terms of job-relatedness. *See Griggs v. Duke Power Co.*, 401 U.S. 424.

The first question is whether *Washington v. Davis*, 426 U.S. 229 (1976), and *Arlington Heights v. Metropolitan Housing Development Corp.*, 429 U.S. 252 (1977), bar the relief ordered because intentional discrimination was not proved. We find no bar. It is by no means clear that our decisions in the police and fire cases should have been different had they been decided after *Washington v. Davis* and *Arlington Heights*, but in any event the pattern of relief which the present modifications in the decrees seek to preserve was conclusively established prior to those decisions. Neither case stands in the way of the district court's modification of the consent decree. *Sarabia v. Toledo Police Patrolman's Ass'n*, 601 F.2d 914, 919 (6th Cir. 1979); *Bolder v. Penn. State Police*, 73 F.R.D. 370, 371-72 (E.D. Pa. 1976).

We have carefully reviewed the original complaints, the language contained in the decrees, and all district and circuit court opinions in these cases. We can only conclude that the purpose of the decrees and the intervening orders was to eliminate the present and continuing effects of defendants' past discrimination. We reject appellants' contention that the original decrees and subsequent modifications limit relief to correcting features of the certification process found to have violated plaintiffs' constitutional rights as to hiring. These cases encompass the overall issue of shaping ongoing relief so as to eliminate the *condition* precipitating the original decrees: gross discriminatory underrepresentation of persons in the fire and police departments who are not members of the "prevail-

ing white culture."\* *Castro v. Beecher*, 459 F.2d 725, 729-31 (1st Cir. 1972); *see Milliken v. Bradley*, 418 U.S. 717, 744 (1974); *Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenberg Bd. of Educ.*, 402 U.S. 1, 16 (1971); *cf. Evans v. Buchanan*, 582 F.2d 750, 768 (3d Cir. 1978) (in banc), *cert. denied*, 446 U.S. 223, *reh'g denied*, 447 U.S. 916 (1980).

The district court based its authority to reshape the consent decrees on its finding that the dramatic reduction in minority representation in these departments constituted a showing of a "grievous wrong evoked by new and unforeseen conditions," citing the Supreme Court in *United States v. Swift*, 286 U.S. 106, 119 (1932). *Swift* involved an antitrust *defendant* that sought to avoid its obligations pursuant to a consent decree due to changed market conditions. Perhaps a more apt standard was set out by the Supreme Court in *United States v. United Shoe Corp.*, 391 U.S. 244 (1968), wherein *plaintiffs* in an antitrust dispute sought revision of their remedy designed to produce "workable competition." *Id.* at 249. There, the Court held that modification was appropriate because time and experience had demonstrated that the decree had failed to accomplish its intended result. *Id.* *See also System Federation v. Wright*, 364 U.S. 642, 647 (1961). In any event there can be no question of the power of a court of equity, upon a sufficient showing, "to modify an injunction in adaptation to changed conditions though it was entered by consent." *United States v. Swift*, 286 U.S. at 114. Here, there was ample showing that changed circumstances would totally vitiate the intended effect of the original decrees unless the proposed modifications were made.

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\*Prior orders and stipulations in both cases have dealt with matters going beyond civil service certification measures, including employment of provisional employees, recruiting, appointment targets, rejection of applicants, the effects of statutory preferences for veterans and local residents, mental and physical testing, and firing. *See, e.g.*, 371 F.Supp. at 521-22; 365 F.Supp. at 662-62.

Nor do we think that plaintiffs should be penalized for failing, in negotiating the decrees, to have foreseen the unprecedented change in state and local fiscal policy resulting in the extensive layoff programs. We agree with the district court that, had the parties anticipated any measure such as Proposition 2½, they would have incorporated some provision addressing its potential impact into the decrees. Failure to take the action here challenged would result in undoing most all that had been accomplished by the original decrees.

The Sixth Circuit's treatment of a virtually identical layoff situation in *Brown v. Neeb*, 644 F.2d 551 (6th Cir. 1981), lends considerable support to our conclusion that modification was within the court's power. In *Brown*, findings of prior illegal discrimination by the Toledo Fire Department formed the predicate of consent decree entered into by the city, which set as a goal that the city "achieve within 5 years a fire department which reflected the racial composition of the city as a whole." *Id.* at 555. The Sixth Circuit upheld the district court's authority to order the same type of modification of the original decree as in this case, reasoning that the language in the decree, although silent as to the effect of layoffs, and the circumstances surrounding the entry of the decree, compelled the conclusion that the "city agreed that it had a constitutional duty to eliminate discrimination in the hiring of firefighters." *Id.* at 562-63. The *Brown* court distinguished its denial of similar relief in *Youngblood v. Dalzell*, 568 F.2d 506 (6th Cir. 1978), because in *Youngblood*, unlike *Brown*, there had been no finding of prior discrimination; the original decree contained language expressly denying that the Cincinnati Fire Department had discriminated in its past hiring practices. *Brown v. Neeb*, 644 F.2d at 561 & n.18.

Here, as in *Brown*, the defendants entered into consent decrees upon "capitulating to judicial findings of past discrimination." *Brown v. Neeb*, 644 F.2d at 562 & n.20; *Boston*

*Chapter, NAACP, Inc. v. Beecher*, April 17, 1975 Interim Consent Decree (fire case), App. at 90-91; *Castro v. Beecher*, 365 F.Supp. at 656. Both decrees contain language that warrants concluding that the certifying and appointing authorities are under an affirmative duty to integrate the police and fire-departments until the percentage of blacks and hispanics in both departments approximates that of the general population.<sup>10</sup> In addition, neither decree contains any exculpatory language as in *Youngblood*. And, as in *Brown*, if the district court undertook no modification, the layoffs would have eroded significantly, if not completely destroyed, the affirmative action progress made to date. See *Brown v. Neeb*, 644 F.2d at 560. Under these circumstances, we conclude that the district court had the authority to modify the consent decrees in the light of new and unforeseen conditions.

We next address the issues of whether the relief ordered was proper and constitutional.

## II. THE COURT ORDER VERSUS THE MASSACHUSETTS SENIORITY STATUTE

To implement its order prohibiting the Boston Police and Fire Departments from reducing the current level of minority representation, the district court required the maintenance of separate minority and nonminority lists with respect to seniority, reemployment and reinstatement. To this extent, therefore, the district court's order superseded the operation of the reverse seniority layoff provisions of the Massachusetts civil service statute, Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 31, § 39.<sup>11</sup> Most

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<sup>10</sup> See, e.g., June 27, 1975 Consent Decree (police case), App. at 122-23; April 17, 1975 Interim Consent Decree (fire case), App. at 93.

<sup>11</sup> Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 31, § 39 provides in pertinent part:

If permanent employees in positions having the same title in a departmental unit are to be separated from such positions because

of the cases dealing with the inherent conflict between affirmative action programs and vested seniority rights have concerned private employers and Title VII. And, until recently, the dispute has mainly centered on hiring and promotion.

There are three Supreme Court cases that focus on the problem of seniority rights and discrimination against minorities. *Franks v. Bowman Transp. Co.*, 424 U.S. 747 (1976); *International Bhd. of Teamsters v. United States*, 431 U.S. 324 (1977), and *American Tobacco Co., et al. v. Patterson, et al.*, 50 U.S.L.W. 4364 (April 5, 1982). In *Franks* the district court had found that the employer had discriminated in making hiring, transfer, and discharge decisions, all of which occurred after July 2, 1965, the date on which the prohibition against racial discrimination under Title VII took effect as to private employers. *Franks v. Bowman Transp. Co.*, 424 U.S. at 751, 758 n.10. The Supreme Court held that section 703(h) of Title VII, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-2(h)<sup>12</sup> did not "modify or restrict relief

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of lack of work or lack of money or abolition of positions, they shall, except as hereinafter provided, be separated from employment according to their seniority in such unit and shall be reinstated in the same unit and in the same positions or positions similar to those formerly held by them according to such seniority, so that employees senior in length of service, computed in accordance with section thirty-three, shall be retained the longest and reinstated first. Employees separated from positions under this section shall be reinstated prior to the appointment of any other applicants to fill such positions or similar positions, provided that the right to such reinstatement shall lapse at the end of the five-year period following the date of such separation.

<sup>12</sup> Relevant portions of § 703(h) of Title VII provide:

Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter, it shall not be an unlawful employment practice for an employer to apply different standards of compensation, or different terms, conditions, or privileges of employment pursuant to a bona fide seniority or merit system, or a system which measures earnings by quantity or quality of production or to employees who work in different locations, provided

otherwise appropriate once an illegal discriminatory practice occurring after the effective date of the Act is proved," *id.* at 761-62, and "that class-based seniority relief for identifiable victims of illegal hiring discrimination was a form of relief generally appropriate under § 706(g)." *Id.* at 779; *accord*, *Teamsters v. United States*, 431 U.S. at 346-48; *EEOC v. American Tel. & Tel. Co.*, 556 F.2d 167, 174 (3d Cir. 1977), *cert. denied*, 438 U.S. 915 (1978); *see Ass'n Against Discrimination v. City of Bridgeport*, 647 F.2d 256, 278 (2d Cir.), *cert. denied*, 102 S.Ct. 397 (1981); *Guardian's Ass'n of New York City v. Civil Service*, 633 F.2d 232, 249-54 (2d Cir. 1980), *cert. denied*, 101 S.Ct. 3083 (1981); *Chance v. Board of Examiners & Bd. of Educ.*, 534 F.2d 993, 1007 (2d Cir. 1976) (*reh'g in banc*), *cert. denied*, 431 U.S. 965 (1977).

In *Teamsters* the Court did not retreat from the rule set forth in *Franks*, but dealt instead with the effect of section 703(h) on awarding retroactive seniority to redress prior discrimination that had occurred both before and after the effective date of Title VII. The district court in *Teamsters* had found that the employer had discriminated by implementing hiring, assignment and promotion policies that caused black and hispanic employees to occupy the lower paying and less desirable jobs. 431 U.S. at 329-31. As to those plaintiffs claiming that they had been discriminated against after the effective date of Title VII, the Court stood firm on its *Franks* ruling. *Id.* at 347. But the Court denied relief to those plain-

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that such differences are not the result of an intention to discriminate because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, nor shall it be an unlawful employment practice for an employer to give and to act upon the results of any professionally developed ability test provided that such test, its administration or action upon the results is not designed, intended or used to discriminate because of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

tiffs alleging discrimination that occurred prior to the effective date of the Act and held that an "otherwise neutral, legitimate seniority system does not become unlawful under Title VII simply because it may perpetuate pre-Act discrimination." *Id.* at 353-54.

The most recent case, *American Tobacco Co. v. Patterson*, 50 U.S.L.W. 4364, dealt with the question whether § 703(h) applied to seniority systems adopted after the effective date of Title VII, July 2, 1965. After an exegesis of the statutory history of Title VII, the Court concluded that § 703(h) immunizes a bona fide seniority system whenever adopted unless intentional discrimination was proven. *Id.* at 4367-68. Compare p. 13 *American Tobacco Co.* did not explicitly overrule the holding of *Franks* that § 703(h) does not bar appropriate relief if an illegal discriminatory practice occurring after the effective date of the Act is proved.

We find nothing in this trilogy that precludes a court from ordering relief to remedy discrimination that exists apart from the adoption or application of a bona fide seniority system. The original consent decrees in the cases before us, decided long before the Supreme Court cases, were directed at such independent violations, the use of discriminatory certification examinations. None of the Supreme Court cases apply to the basic issue at stake here; the power of a court in a litigated discrimination case to ensure that relief already ordered not be eviscerated by seniority-based layoffs. To hold a seniority system inviolate in such circumstances would make a mockery of the equitable relief already granted.

Two recent Second Circuit cases are analogous to our situation. *Guardians Ass'n v. Civil Service*, 633 F.2d 232 (2d Cir. 1980), *cert. denied*, 101 S.Ct. 3083 (1981), was an action brought under Title VII, Title VI and 42 U.S.C. § 1981 by black and hispanic members of the New York City Police Department, alleging that layoffs carried out pursuant to a last

hired, first fired plan were discriminatory because the Department's entry examinations administered during the years 1968 to 1970 were discriminatory, and that but for such discrimination plaintiffs would have been hired earlier and thus would have accrued sufficient seniority to withstand being fired. The Court upheld the district court's findings that the entry examinations were discriminatory and held that the use of such tests as late as 1974 violated Title VII. It held that § 703(h) did not "immunize post-Act hiring on the basis of an eligibility list reflecting performance on pre-Act discriminatory examinations." *Id.* at 253. In *Association Against Discrimination v. City of Bridgeport*, 647 F.2d 256 (2d Cir. 1981), *cert. denied*, 50 U.S.L.W. 3695 (March 3, 1982) (Nos. 81-373, 81-374), the Second Circuit affirmed its holding in *Guardians* that a municipality could be held liable under Title VII for post-Act hiring based on a pre-Act discriminatory hiring list. *Id.* at 272-74.

It is now settled that remedies to right the wrong of past discrimination may suspend valid state laws. *Carter v. Gallagher*, 452 F.2d 315, 328 (8th Cir. 1961) (*reh'g in banc*), *cert. denied*, 406 U.S. 950 (1972); *United States v. Mississippi*, 339 F.2d 679 (5th Cir. 1964); *United States v. Duke*, 332 F.2d 759 (5th Cir. 1963). See generally Note, *Last Hired, First Fired Layoffs and Title VII*, 88 Harv. L. Rev. 1544, 1557-60 (1975).

We emphasize that the district court orders do not completely nullify the seniority statute. Nor do they mandate the firing of any particular employees. The orders allow the statute to be followed so long as the level of minority representation is not reduced beyond that which prevailed at the time the personnel reductions began. The order was designed to operate within the framework of the statute, although modifying it to the extent necessary to preserve the integration already achieved.

We hold that the court's orders prevail over the Massachusetts seniority statute.

### III. THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF THE ORDERS

Appellants argue that the orders discriminate against non-minorities and thus are unconstitutional.<sup>13</sup> We first define the issue. This case does not involve an award of constructive seniority to individuals who have been discriminated against; the orders require that there be a certain percentage of minorities on the Police and Fire Departments without regard to whether the individuals comprising the minority percentage were the actual victims of past discrimination.

We turn to the Supreme Court cases, in addition to those already discussed, bearing on the issue. The first case is *McDonald v. Santa Fe Trail Transp. Co.*, 427 U.S. 273, 286-87 (1976), which held that section 1981 protects whites as well as blacks from racial discrimination in private employment.

Next came *University of California Regents v. Bakke*, 438 U.S. 265 (1978). A divided court upheld so much of the judgment of the Supreme Court of California declaring the University's special admission program based on racial quotas unlawful. *Id.* at 270-71. It reversed, however, that portion of the California court's judgment enjoining the University from according any consideration to race in its admission process. *Id.* at 272.

*United Steelworkers of America v. Weber*, 443 U.S. 193, *reh'g denied*, 444 U.S. 889 (1980), comes closer to our problem.

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<sup>13</sup> As a threshold matter, we find that appellants did preserve the reverse discrimination argument for appeal by suggesting the applicability of the reasoning in *Chance v. Board of Examiners & Bd. of Educ.*, 534 F.2d 993 (2d Cir. 1976), *cert. denied*, 431 U.S. 965 (1977), at the July 30, 1981 hearing before Judge Caffrey.

In *Weber* the Court held that Title VII does not bar voluntary, private affirmative action undertaken by an employer in collaboration with a union, even when the plan is racially preferential or accomplished through a quota, so long as the plan is directed to eliminating "conspicuous racial imbalance in traditionally segregated job categories." *Id.* at 208-09. Although the court declined to "define in detail the line of demarcation between permissible and impermissible affirmative action," *id.* at 208, it noted that "the plan does not unnecessarily trammel the interests of the white employees. The plan does not require the discharge of white workers and their replacement with new black hirees." *Id.*

The fourth Supreme Court case that bears, albeit tangentially, on the issue is *Fullilove v. Klutznick*, 448 U.S. 448 (1980). This case upheld the power of Congress to require in a congressional spending program that "10% of the federal funds granted for local public works projects must be used by the state or local grantee to procure services or supplies from businesses owned and controlled by members of statutorily identified minority groups." *Id.* at 453.

Although these decisions issued from a sharply divided court and were marked by separate concurrences and dissents, we think it is now firmly established that remedial relief for the effects of past discrimination need not be color-blind and that the use of minority-conscious percentage goals and quotas to overcome the present and ongoing effects of past discrimination is constitutionally permissible. See *United States v. City of Miami, Fla.*, 614 F.2d 1322, 1335 (5th Cir. 1980) and cases cited therein. We also think that *Weber* implicitly approves the use of such remedies in sections 1981 and 1983 cases as well as Title VII cases. See *Setser v. Novack Inv. Co.*, 657 F.2d 962, 955-67 (8th Cir. 1981) and cases cited therein.

None of the other Supreme Court cases, however, involve public employment nor address directly the situation before

us; the conflict between a last hired, first fired seniority system and court orders seeking to maintain some semblance of racial balance in municipal Police and Fire Departments. There is no blinking the fact that there is significant difference between hiring and promoting in accord with a race-conscious ratio and insulating from discharge a percentage of employees because they are members of a minority group. In the former situation, there is only a postponement of expectations; in the layoff situation, employees with greater seniority lose their jobs. See *Detroit Police Officers' Ass'n v. Young*, 608 F.2d 671, 696 n.12 (6th Cir. 1979); Judge Skelly Wright, *Color-Blind Theories and Color Conscious Remedies*, 47 U. Chi. L. Rev. 213, 238-40 (1980).

We do not think the issue can be resolved by simply following the Title VII cases and awarding constructive seniority to those minority members of the departments that can show that they were discriminated against by the entry examinations given in 1968-1970. This is not an action for damages. The relief sought originally was not for individuals, but to correct a condition of racial imbalance. We do not know the exact effect the award of constructive seniority to the identifiable victims of the past discrimination would have on the minority percentages of the departments. Considering, however, that more than ten years have passed, we do know that such a limited remedy would result in minority ratios far below that set by the district court.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> In response to an inquiry at oral argument, we have been informed that the earliest seniority date of minority police officers laid off is June 1980, and the earliest seniority date of laid-off white police officers is December 30, 1970. We have also been told that of the 258 police officers laid off, 34 are minority and that if it were not for the order of the district court, 130 minority officers, 126 white officers, and 2 oriental officers would have been laid off. As a result of the order, 81 minority officers were recalled so as to maintain the 11.7% minority representation in the department. On a percentage

It must be stressed that the orders here do not require the continuation of the affirmative action programs by the hiring of minorities and the firing of whites. All they do is preserve the status quo at a 14.7 percent minority ratio for fire fighters and an 11.7 percent for policemen. Against a background of a present 30 percent minority population in Boston, this hardly can be deemed overreaching. Nor do we think it can fairly be characterized as "unnecessarily trammeling" the interests of the whites. *United States v. Weber*, 443 U.S. at 208. The fact of past discrimination agreed to in both cases constitutes a "compelling need" for a minority-conscious remedy. The proper test is one of reasonableness. See *Morgan, et al. v. O'Bryant, et al.*, Nos. 81-1561, 1617, 1618, 1619, and 1646, slip op. at 10-11 (1st Cir. February 17, 1982). The orders of the district court meet the test of reasonableness. They were necessary to prevent the departments from regressing to the state of precipitous racial imbalance that prevailed at the commencement of this litigation more than ten years ago.

We are acutely aware that some white policemen and fire fighters who, understandably, regard the seniority system as an inalienable right and who have been innocent themselves of any discrimination will lose their jobs, at least temporarily.<sup>15</sup>

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basis, the district court's order means that a little more than 13% of those laid off are members of the minority group.

<sup>15</sup> If a fire fighter or police officer with permanent civil service status is laid off as a result of a reduction in force, that individual will be placed on reemployment lists by the Director of Personnel Administration. A reemployment list establishes for a laid-off fire fighter or police officer the right to be certified to all municipalities for a period of two years from his layoff, ahead of all other persons eligible for appointment as police officers or fire fighters. Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 31, § 40. In addition, a police officer or fire fighter has the right to be reinstated to a vacancy within the department from which he was laid off for five years after the date of his termination — again with preference over all other eligible applicants. Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 31, § 39.

We also must recognize that whites as a group reaped significant advantages in the past in hiring and promotion at the expense of blacks and hispanics and that a last hired, first fired seniority system perpetuates the past exclusion of minorities. This is not a case of wrong or right; it is a case of two competing rights, earned seniority versus racially balanced police and fire departments.

An important factor in these cases is that they involve the police and fire departments of a large metropolitan city that now has a minority population of at least 30 percent. We are concerned here not with simply redressing the rights of individuals who suffered racial discrimination; the issue is whether the progress made to date in integrating the departments will be preserved. As Judge Wyzanski noted, the public interest requires a racially balanced police force. *Castro v. Beecher*, 365 F. Supp. at 660. We do not need expert testimony to make the point that, unless the public safety departments of a city reflect its growing minority population, there is bound to be antagonism, hostility and strife between the citizenry and those departments. The inevitable result is poor police and fire protection for those who need it most.

The argument that police need more minority officers if not simply that blacks communicate better with blacks or that a police department should cater to the public's desires. Rather, it is that effective crime prevention and solution depend heavily on the public support and co-operation which result only from public respect and confidence in the police. In short, the focus is not on the superior performance of minority officers, but on the public's perception of law enforcement officials and institutions.

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The probable extent of recalls in both departments is not yet clear, although some evidence does exist that in fact reinstatement of at least some of the laid-off employees has taken place or will occur.

*Detroit Police Officer's Ass'n v. Young*, 608 F.2d 671, 696 (6th Cir. 1979).

It is significant that the only circuit case directly on point, *Brown v. Neeb*, 644 F.2d at 564, held: "To the extent that the seniority system is an obstacle to the city of Toledo's duty to eliminate past discrimination the district court can set it aside."

We find no constitutional bar. It is now accepted that minority-conscious quotas can be used as a tool to prevent discrimination and to advance integration of the work force in hiring and promotion situations. The imposition of constructive seniority to offset the effects of a last hired, first fired system has been used with increasing frequency since *Franks* in Title VII cases. While the orders place a relatively greater share of the burdens of the layoffs upon nonminorities, this does not constitute "reverse discrimination." The layoffs here were bound to cause undeserved injury in any event. While seniority was the normal way to decide who must go first, there is nothing magical about seniority, and here common sense suggests that it should be tempered by other entirely rational considerations so that the racial equity achieved at considerable effort in the past decade not be erased. In *Bakke*, not an employment case, the Supreme Court refused to enjoin the University from giving any consideration to race in its admissions process. It is a simple fact that discrimination against blacks and other minorities was long accepted and condoned in this country. To a minority police officer or fire fighter hired within the last ten years, the imposition of a rigid last hired, first fired seniority system would only mean that once again the dominant white culture had protected its own kind at the expense of blacks and hispanics. If the evil of racial discrimination is to be fought openly, we must not allow ourselves to be caught in a semantic web of aphorisms such as "reverse discrimination" that in the final analysis serve only to perpetuate the discrimination of the past.

We rule that the district court had the equitable power to modify the consent decrees, that the Massachusetts statutory last hired, first fired seniority system is not insulated from the court's orders, and that the orders are not unconstitutional.

*Affirmed.*

**APPENDIX D.**

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**PEDRO CASTRO, ET AL.,  
Plaintiffs,**

**v.** **CIVIL ACTION NOS.**  
**70-1220-C**  
**74-2982-C**

**NANCY B. BEECHER, ET AL.,  
Defendants.**

**ORDER**  
**August 7, 1981**

**CAFFREY, Ch. J.**

This matter having come on for hearing on plaintiffs' motion to modify prior remedial orders; and the Court having considered the prior proceedings had herein, further evidence regarding proposed reductions in force affecting the Police Department of the City of Boston, the parties' briefs and the arguments of counsel; and the Court having found that a material change in circumstances — namely, the effective and proposed reductions in force — would nullify the Court's prior remedial orders and frustrate the intent of those orders; and the Court having found that modification of those prior remedial orders through entry of the within order is necessary to prevent that consequence, it is therefore,

**ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED as follows:**

1. The defendant Commissioner of Police of the City of Boston is hereby restrained and enjoined from reducing, pursuant to any departmental or city program of reductions in force of police personnel on account of lack of funds or abolition of position, the percentage of black and Spanish-surnamed post-probationary police officers in the City of Boston Police Department below the level of 11.7 percent of all such officers.

2. For the purpose of implementing this order, the defendant Commissioner of Police of the City of Boston shall establish and maintain separate seniority lists of post-probationary police officers, one for minority officers and one for non-minority officers and shall use such separate lists in implementing any program of reductions in force on account of lack of funds or abolition of positions. Within each separate seniority list, the seniority of each officer shall be computed pursuant to statute, M.G.L. c. 31 § 33.

3. As police officers in the Boston Police Department are separated from their positions because of lack of funds or abolition of positions, the defendant Fire Commissioner may terminate officers according to strict seniority until the reduction in force results in a reduction of the percentage of black and Spanish-surnamed police officers below 11.7 percent. At that point, the Commissioner shall utilize separate seniority lists for minority and non-minority police officers and shall terminate the least senior police officers from each of the two lists according to a mathematical ratio so that the percentage of black and Spanish-surnamed officers at no time falls below 11.7 percent. Nothing herein shall disturb application of Massachusetts statutory preferences; provided that such preferences are applied solely within the separate seniority lists.

4. In the event that a police officer's appeal of his termination to the defendant members of the Massachusetts Civil Service Commission challenges the method of termination

set forth herein, the defendant members of the Civil Service Commission are hereby restrained and enjoined from disapproving, invalidating or interfering with the termination on that basis.

5. For the purpose of continuing the implementation of this Court's prior orders, the defendant Personnel Administrator is ordered to place the names of all City of Boston police who are laid off for lack of funds or abolition of position on the Civil Service re-employment and reinstatement lists in the order in which they are laid off. Reinstatement and re-employment of firefighters on such lists shall be accomplished by the Personnel Administrator and by the Commissioner of Police in reverse order of such layoffs and in a manner so that the percentage of black and Spanish-surnamed officers does not fall below 11.7 percent. The Personnel Administrator, upon receipt of any requisition for hiring, shall certify names from such lists prior to certifying names from any other list.

6. The parties are instructed to confer and negotiate with respect to any further practices and procedures necessary and appropriate for the implementation of the provisions of this order.

/s/ Andrew A. Caffrey, Ch. J.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

PEDRO CASTRO, ET AL,

Plaintiff,

CIVIL ACTION NOS.

v.

70-1220-C

74-2982-C

NANCY B. BEECHER,  
ET AL,

Defendants.

BOSTON CHAPTER, NAACP,  
ET AL,

Plaintiffs,

CIVIL ACTION  
NO. 72-3060-C

NANCY B. BEECHER, ET AL,  
Defendants

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

CIVIL ACTION  
NO. 73-269-C

v.  
CITY OF BOSTON, ET AL,  
Defendants.

OPINION

August 7, 1981

CAFFREY, Ch. J.

These four cases, all of which have long since gone to judgment, are before the Court on motions filed by the plaintiffs in each case to modify prior remedial orders. All four cases raise substantially the same legal issue, i.e. may the City of Boston

in conducting reductions in force in the Boston Police and Fire Departments decide which police officers and which firemen to terminate on the basis of seniority as directed by M.G.L. c. 31 § 39, or must the City of Boston maintain the percentage of minority representation existing as of July 6, 1981 by persons who are either black or hispanic.

The past history of this litigation may be summarized as follows: The police case was begun and assigned to the Honorable Charles E. Wyzanski, Jr., who tried the case and entered a judgment, after which an appeal was taken to the First Circuit and the Court of Appeals filed an opinion giving directions for further proceedings by Judge Wyzanski. Judge Wyzanski made additional rulings and then subsequent litigation in the police case was assigned to and handled by the undersigned, including the monitoring of remedial measures. (For further background information see the undersigned's opinion of January 7, 1975 reported in 386 F.Supp. 1281.)

For present purposes suffice it to say that this action was commenced in 1970 by unsuccessful black and hispanic candidates for appointment as Boston Police officers. Plaintiffs claimed racial discrimination in the recruitment and certification practices initiated by the Massachusetts Civil Service Commission and implemented, through appointment procedures by the police forces of the City of Boston, other cities and towns, and other appointing authorities subject to Massachusetts Civil Service regulations. Following trial, Judge Wyzanski made extensive findings, including findings that, in 1960, blacks represented 9 percent of the population of Boston and but 2 percent of its police force and, in 1970, 16.3 percent of the population and but 3.6 percent of the police force. Judge Wyzanski also found that the Massachusetts Civil Service Police Entrance Examination discriminated against minorities who did not share mainstream white culture. Judge Wyzanski held that plaintiffs had been discriminated against. 334 F.Supp. 943 (1971).

Appeal followed to the First Circuit. The Court of Appeals held that the civil service examinations were racially discriminatory. The Court of Appeals remanded the case with instructions that the district court enter a remedial order providing for implementation of a substantially job-related examination and providing for certification of black and hispanic applicants on a priority basis to be determined, under guidelines recommended by the Court of Appeals, by the District Court. The Court of Appeals insisted that relief "is to be more than token." 459 F.2d 725, 737 (1972).

On remand Judge Wyzanski approved and entered a comprehensive consent decree, finding that it was "just, reasonable and in the public interest, and more likely than any other proposed solution to give the people of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts effective non-discriminatory, dedicated, and honorable police forces . . . ." 365 F.Supp. 655, 660 (1973). The remedial order provided, among other measures, for the establishment of civil service certification priority pools consisting of certain black and Spanish-surnamed applicants, and for the implementation of affirmative recruitment programs for the purpose of recruiting black and Spanish-surnamed police applicants. *Id.* at 660-662 (1973). Immediately prior to approval of the consent decree, Judge Wyzanski had issued an opinion exhorting the parties to reach agreement on the provisions of the decree, in the course of which he observed:

there is a *prima facia* presumption that on a job-related examination which is reasonably set to meet merely the requirements (and not something above the requirements) of a police patrolman's job, the percentage of successful black and Spanish-speaking persons who would choose to be patrolmen and who also would meet the requirements of the job would nearly approximate the percentage of blacks and Spanish-speaking persons in the population of the Commonwealth. *Id.* at 655.

In 1975 plaintiffs brought an action pursuant to the All Writs Act for the purpose of clarifying and preserving the effect of the prior consent decree in light of proceedings which had taken place in the Massachusetts Superior and Supreme Judicial Courts upon applications by certain Massachusetts cities and towns to establish the right to appoint police officers in accordance with certain statutory preferences. The action was assigned to the undersigned, who subsequently has supervised all aspects of the two consolidated police cases, including holding that statutory preferences were not displaced by the prior consent decree except to the extent that the preferences must be applied within the several groups established by the priority appointment procedures contained in the consent decree. I also further requested the parties to arrive at a substitute consent decree and recommended the remedy adopted in *NAACP v. Beecher*, 371 F.Supp. 507 (D.Mass.), *aff'd*, 504 F.2d 1017 (1st Cir. 1975). 386 F.Supp. 1281 (1975).

Thereafter, all parties entered into a consent decree, approved and entered by the Court on July 7, 1975. This consent decree provides, among other measures, for the establishment of priority certification groups for police applicants, for an affirmative recruitment program for black and hispanic applicants and for procedures for administration and reporting with respect to police entrance examinations. This decree required certification of police applicants by methods in essence designed to facilitate the appointment by Boston and Springfield of one minority policeman for each white policeman, and to facilitate the appointment by other appointing authorities on a ratio of one to three. The decree also provided that the method and ratios of certification provided for by the decree shall apply to all cities and towns which have a minority population of one percent or more until any such city or town "achieves a complement of minorities commensurate with the percentage of minorities within the community," at which

point further certification will be made in accordance with existing Massachusetts law. This parity target had been established by the Court in the *NAACP v. Beecher* decree to which I previously directed the parties.

On July 13, 1976, the writer approved and entered a supplemental consent decree. This decree contained further administrative procedures for monitoring the continuing implementation of prior decrees. This decree also exempted from further application of the method and ratios of certification contained in the July 7, 1975 consent decree the police departments of 81 cities and towns which had attained parity of the percentage of blacks and hispanics in police service with the percentage of blacks and hispanics in municipal population according to then current census statistics. Ninety one cities and towns plus the MBTA, MDC and Capitol Police forces remain subject to the decree.

On June 1, 1979 I further approved and entered an agreement as to the May, 1978 examination which provided, among other measures, for the continuing applicability of the method and ratios for certification provided for by the 1975 consent decree and for further recruitment activities and monitoring of the civil service examination.

As found in prior proceedings, in 1970 the Boston Police Department employed 2805 officers. Sixty-five of these were black or Spanish-surnamed, representing 2.3 percent. 459 F.2d at 728, 730. At the same time, the population of the city was 16.3 percent black. *Id.* at 728.

Since 1973, as a result of implementation of this Court's orders, Boston has increased the representation of minorities in the Police Department from 2.3 percent to 11.7 percent. Pursuant to the methods, ratios and procedures provided for by prior decrees, the Boston Police Department has hired, between 1974 and the present, 451 police officers, of whom 243 (53.88 percent) have been white and 208 (46 percent) have

been Black, Spanish-surnamed and other minorities. However, the minority population of Boston has increased during the intervening decade to 30 percent. The percentage of black and hispanic officers in the Police Department, therefore, remains far below the percentage of minorities in the city and the parity level which the Court's prior remedial orders were designed to achieve.

Against this background, the City of Boston presently plans, and has begun to implement, massive reductions in work force in the Boston police and fire departments for alleged reasons of fiscal austerity.

I find on the basis of stipulations entered into by the parties on July 29, 1981, that reductions in force now being conducted, and scheduled for completion on August 18, 1981, would reduce minority representation in the police force to 6.2%, contrasted with the 11.7% as of July 6, 1981. Similar reductions in the Fire Department, to be completed on August 12, 1981, would leave a 9.1% minority representation, as compared with the 14.7% level of July 6, 1981.

The litigation involving the members of the Fire Department has followed a substantially similar course down through the years and is described with far greater specificity than is necessary for present purposes in an opinion filed by Judge Freedman on February 8, 1974, reported in 371 F.Supp. 507 (1974). The firemen's cases were later transferred from Judge Freedman to the Honorable John J. McNaught in whose temporary absence the firemen's cases are also being handled by the undersigned.

Given the foregoing, it should be noted that contrary to specious arguments for counsel for the state respondents, this motion does not constitute the filing of a new complaint, does not warrant respondents filing an answer, and does not require a new trial. Stating the matter affirmatively, this motion is a request that this Court modify a remedial decree which

it has been monitoring for many years. The Court clearly has power to do so on the basis of both Rule 60(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and under its inherent equitable power. It was so ruled by the Supreme Court of the United States in *United States v. Swift*, 286 U.S. 106 (1932) where (at page 115) the Supreme Court stated:

A Court does not abdicate its power to revoke or modify its mandate if satisfied that what it has been doing has been turned through changing circumstances into an instrument of wrong.

The standard to be followed by a district court in deciding whether and when to exercise its inherent right to modify a remedial decree was also stated by the Supreme Court in *United States v. Swift* (at page 119) where the Court told us:

Nothing less than a clear showing of grievous wrong evoked by new and unforeseen conditions should lead us to change what was decreed after years of litigation.

I rule on the basis of the entire record of these cases from 1970 to date:

1. that the orders previously entered in all of these cases were decreed after years of litigation;
2. that the massive firings claimed by municipal authorities to be a result of the voters enacting Proposition 2½ amount to "new and unforeseen conditions" within the *Swift* ruling; and
3. that if this Court fails to modify the decree, as requested by plaintiffs' motions, then a grievous wrong would be produced by this Court's non-action, i.e. a refusal to amend the remedial order would allow the substantial eradication of all

progress made by blacks and hispanics in securing public employment as members of either the police or fire departments since 1970.

4. that it is obvious from the opinion of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit that using M.G.L. c. 31 § 39 to *de facto* reverse all of the results granted over the past 11 years would not be tolerated by that Court. Cf. *Brown v. Neeb*, C.A. No. 72-282, July 3, 1980 (N.D. Ohio); *aff'd* March 3, 1981 (6th Cir.).

It should be noted in view of the argument by various respondents that the earlier remedial decrees do not talk about terminations, that the argument first of all is factually fallacious in that both Judge Wyzanski and this writer have made reference to terminations, see Section IV, part. 5(e), Consent Decree by Wyzanski, J., 365 F.Supp. 655, 662 (1973), and para. 19(b), Consent Decree by Caffrey, Ch. J., unreported, July 7, 1975. Secondly, and more importantly, it is beyond argument that, given the nature of the remedial decrees directed by the Court of Appeals, and given the objective thereof, namely bringing minority representation up to a level approximating the percentage of the total population which the minorities represent in the community, that if anything similar to Proposition 2½ had been in effect at the time that the remedial decrees were originally entered, these decrees would have been fashioned to make allowances for terminations so that the minority representation on both departments could have been maintained if not increased notwithstanding the then hypothetically ongoing terminations.

Accordingly, I rule that an order should enter granting plaintiffs' motions to modify prior remedial orders and enjoining respondents from reducing the percentage of black and hispanic police officers on the City of Boston police force below the 11.7% of July 6, 1981, and enjoining the City of Boston from reducing the number of black and hispanic members of the Fire department below the 14.7% of July 6, 1981.

/s/ Andrew A. Caffrey, Ch. J.

**APPENDIX E.****§ 33. Seniority; computing length of service**

For the purposes of this chapter, seniority of a civil service employee shall mean his ranking based on length of service, computed as provided in this section. Length of service shall be computed from the first date of full-time employment as a permanent employee, including the required probationary period, in the departmental unit, regardless of title, unless such service has been interrupted by an absence from the payroll of more than six months, in which case length of service shall be computed from the date of restoration to the payroll; but upon continuous service following such an absence for a period of twice the length of the absence, length of service shall be computed from the date obtained by adding the period of such absence from the payroll to the date of original employment; provided, however, that the continuity of service of such employee shall be deemed not to have been interrupted if such absence was the result of (1) military service, illness, educational leave, abolition of position or lay-off because of lack of work or money, or (2) injuries received in the performance of duty for which compensation was paid pursuant to chapter one hundred and fifty-two, provided that the employee notifies the appointing authority, in writing, not later than six months after the final payment of compensation aforesaid that he is ready, willing, and able to do his former work and files with said appointing authority a certificate of a registered physician that he is able to perform the duties of his position in an efficient manner, and is restored to the payroll.

If, as a result of a reinstatement made pursuant to section forty-six, a person is restored to employment in a departmental unit other than that in which he formerly held full-time employment as a permanent employee, his length of service shall be computed from the date of his first employment under

such reinstatement, but upon continuous service in such unit for three years or twice the length of his absence from the payroll, whichever is greater, his length of service shall be computed as though such earlier employment had been in the departmental unit to which he has been reinstated.

If the employment of such full-time employee is changed through an original or promotional appointment or transfer from one departmental unit of the commonwealth to another under the same appointing authority, or from one departmental unit to another within the same department in a city or town, the length of service of such employee in the unit to which the appointment or transfer is made shall be computed from the date which was used to compute his length of service immediately prior to such appointment or transfer. If the employment of such full-time employee is changed through an original or promotional appointment from one departmental unit of the commonwealth to another not under the same appointing authority, from one departmental unit to another not within the same department in a city or town, from one city or town to another, from a city or town to the commonwealth, or from the commonwealth to a city or town, the length of service of such employee shall be computed from the date of such change of employment, but if the employee completes one year of service in the new employment, from the date which was used to compute the employee's length of service immediately prior to the change of employment.

If the employment of such full-time employee is changed by transfer from one departmental unit of the commonwealth to another not under the same appointing authority, from one departmental unit to another not within the same department in a city or town, from one city or town to another, from a city or town to the commonwealth, or from the commonwealth to a city or town, the length of service of such employee shall be computed in the following manner: (1) if the transfer was

made upon the request of the employee, the length of service shall be computed from the date of such transfer, but if the employee completes three years of service in the new employment, from the date which was used to compute the employee's length of service immediately prior to the transfer; (2) if the transfer was not upon the request of the employee, the length of service shall be computed from the date which was used to compute the employee's length of service immediately prior to the transfer.

The length of service of a permanent employee appointed on less than a full-time basis shall be computed from the date of such appointment, without regard to absences from the payroll which were not voluntary on the part of such employee. Regardless of actual length of service, permanent employees appointed on less than a full-time basis shall, for purposes of determining seniority, rank below all full-time permanent employees.

#### **§ 39. Separation from employment; lack of work or money; abolition of position**

If permanent employees in positions having the same title in a departmental unit are to be separated from such positions because of lack of work or lack of money or abolition of positions, they shall, except as hereinafter provided, be separated from employment according to their seniority in such unit and shall be reinstated in the same unit and in the same positions or positions similar to those formerly held by them according to such seniority, so that employees senior in length of service, computed in accordance with section thirty-three, shall be retained the longest and reinstated first. Employees separated from positions under this section shall be reinstated prior to the appointment of any other applicants to fill such positions or

similar positions, provided that the right to such reinstatement shall lapse at the end of the five-year period following the date of such separation.

Any action by an appointing authority to separate a tenured employee from employment for the reasons of lack of work or lack of money or abolition of positions shall be taken in accordance with the provisions of section forty-one. Any such employee who has received written notice of an intent to separate him from employment for such reasons may, as an alternative to such separation, file with his appointing authority, within seven days of receipt of such notice, a written consent to his being demoted to a position in the next lower title or titles in succession in the official service or to the next lower title or titles in the labor service, as the case may be, if in such next lower title or titles there is an employee junior to him in length of service. As soon as sufficient work or funds are available, any employee so demoted shall be restored, according to seniority in the unit, to the title in which he was formerly employed.

Nothing in this section shall impair the preference provided for disabled veterans by section twenty-six.

**APPENDIX F.****Massachusetts Acts of 1982****Chapter 190****AN ACT Establishing the City of Boston Funding Loan Act of Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-Two And The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority.**

Section 25. Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the contrary, the appointing authority of the police department and the fire department of the City of Boston shall reinstate to active service as of the effective date of this act any uniformed officer of either department who was in service or on injured leave as of July first, nineteen hundred and eighty-one, which suspension has expired, except for disciplinary reasons consistent with chapter thirty-one of the General Laws or in pursuit of an involuntary retirement under section seven of chapter thirty-two of the General Laws and shall not thereafter terminate any such officer or take any other personnel action the effect of which would be to separate such officer from active service in the future for lack of funds. During the fiscal years ending June thirtieth, nineteen hundred and eighty-two and June thirtieth, nineteen hundred and eighty-three the City of Boston shall maintain in the police department and the fire department of the City of Boston, either in active service, training or recruitment, no fewer uniformed employees than the total of the number in service or on injured leave on March twenty-fourth, nineteen hundred and eighty-two plus the number of uniformed employees eligible for reinstatement pursuant to this section, without regard to the number of eligible uniformed employees who actually return to service in either department. Nothing herein shall prevent an employee of either department from being placed in

injured leave under the provisions of section one hundred and eleven F of chapter fortyone of the General Laws. the mayor shall annually request and the city council shall annually appropriate sufficient amounts to the respective departments to cover the costs imposed by this section, but nothing in this section shall be construed to permit the officers in charge of said departments to expend funds in excess of available appropriations in violation of the city charter.

In the  
Supreme Court of the United States

DEC 29 1983

J. R. L. STEVENS,  
CLERK

OCTOBER TERM, 1983

BOSTON FIREFIGHTERS UNION, LOCAL 718,  
PETITIONER,

v.

BOSTON CHAPTER, N.A.A.C.P., INC., ET AL.,  
RESPONDENTS.

BOSTON POLICE PATROLMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.,  
PETITIONER,

v.

PEDRO CASTRO, ET AL.,  
RESPONDENTS.

Brief of Respondents in Opposition to Petitions  
for a Writ of Certiorari to the United States  
Court of Appeals for the First Circuit

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### **Question Presented**

Should the Supreme Court review the decision of the court of appeals holding that the controversy is moot, where that decision is based upon well established principles of federal jurisdiction, and where petitioners' challenge to the decision is based upon asserted matters of fact which are not in the record below and upon the pendency of state administrative proceedings which are governed by state law?

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Nos. 83-866, 83-885

**In the  
Supreme Court of the United States**

OCTOBER TERM, 1983

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PETITIONER,

v.

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BOSTON POLICE PATROLMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.,  
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PEDRO CASTRO, ET AL.,  
RESPONDENTS.

**Brief of Respondents in Opposition to Petitions  
for a Writ of Certiorari to the United States  
Court of Appeals for the First Circuit**

**Opinions Below**

Respondents agree with the identification of Opinions Below stated in the petitions for certiorari, but note that the consolidated opinion on remand of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit has been reported at 716 F.2d 931 (1st Cir. 1983).

## Constitutional and Statutory Provisions

The petitions involve U.S. Const. Art. III, § 2, cl. 1, which is reproduced at page 8a of the Appendix to the petition of Boston Firefighters Union, Local 718.

The statutes involved are 1982 Mass. Acts, c. 190, § 25, which is reproduced at page 9a of the Appendix to the petition of Boston Firefighters Union, Local 718, and Mass. Gen. Laws c. 31, § 43, which is reproduced at page 1a of the Appendix to this brief.

## Statement of the Case

These petitions seek to have the Court grant certiorari in order to decide a question of mootness which the Court has already heard and committed to the court of appeals. Petitioners challenge a decision which accords fully with established mootness doctrine and seek review based upon claims which rely upon matters of fact not in the record below and the pendency of state administrative proceedings which are governed by state law.

### A. *Prior Proceedings*

The decision of the court of appeals found moot a controversy which arose in the course of ongoing judicial administration of relief in consolidated employment discrimination cases relating to Boston's police and fire departments. The cases have lengthy histories, with which the Court is familiar. *See* Supreme Court Nos. 82-185, 82-246, 82-259. The controversy which the court of appeals found moot, however, was more recent and short-lived.

In July 1981, in response to an asserted fiscal crisis, the City of Boston instituted a massive reduction in force program in its police and fire departments. The program was to be administered in accordance with the Massachusetts civil service statute, which requires layoffs in reverse order of seniority. Black and Hispanic police officers and firefighters challenged the application of the seniority statute to the layoff program by applying to the district court for modification of prior court orders in order to prevent the City from reducing their proportional representation below the levels obtaining at the time the program commenced.

The minority officers' requests for modification were opposed by the state civil service officials and intervening unions. They were not opposed by the City or its police and fire commissioners.

The district court held that the application of the Massachusetts seniority statute to the layoff program would interfere with the court's ongoing remedial process. By orders dated August 7, 1981, the court enjoined the police and fire commissioners from reducing the percentage of minority officers obtaining at the commencement of the layoff program.

The court of appeals affirmed.

#### *B. The Political Resolution*

In June 1982 Massachusetts enacted legislation resolving the City's asserted fiscal crisis and rescinding the reduction in force program. 1982 Mass. Acts c. 190. The statute, known as the Tregor Act, provided the City with new funds and required the reinstatement of all police officers and firefighters who had been laid off as a result of the reduction in force program. The Tregor Act also provided that the City shall not terminate or otherwise separate any reinstated personnel from active service "in the future for lack of funds." *Id.* § 25. Finally,

the Act required the maintenance of minimum staffing levels in the police and fire departments through June 30, 1983. *Id.* As a result of the Tregor Act, the police and fire departments reinstated, or offered to reinstate, all personnel terminated during the City's 1981 reduction in force program.

### *C. Disposition by the Supreme Court*

Following enactment of the Tregor Act, the police and fire unions and the state civil service officials petitioned for certiorari. The Court granted certiorari, and on April 18, 1983 the Court heard oral argument on the merits. In their brief on the merits and at oral argument, the minority officers argued that the controversy giving rise to the lower courts' decisions had become moot.

On May 16, 1983, the Court issued a per curiam opinion which vacated the judgment of the court of appeals and remanded the cases for consideration of mootness in light of the Tregor Act. *Boston Firefighters Union, Local 718 v. Boston Chapter, NAACP, Inc.*, 51 U.S.L.W. 4566 (U.S. May 16, 1983).

### *D. The Court of Appeals' Opinion on Remand*

On August 31, 1983, in a per curiam decision, the court of appeals held that the minority officers' motions to modify the prior remedial decrees were moot. *Boston Chapter, NAACP v. Beecher*, 716 F.2d 931 (1st Cir. 1983). The court vacated the district court's August 7, 1981 orders and remanded the cases to the district court to dismiss as moot the motions for modification.

The court of appeals held that "to avoid mootness a case must present both live issues and parties with legally cognizable interests." *Id.* at 933. In light of the Tregor Act's mandatory reinstatement of all laid off officers and its requirement of minimum staffing levels through June 1983, the court of appeals

concluded that the minority officers "now lack the 'personal stake' necessary to keep alive the controversy which engendered this proceeding." *Id.*

Before the court of appeals, the unions had argued that non-minority officers' claims for back pay which were pending before the Massachusetts Civil Service Commission kept the controversy alive. In response, the court of appeals stated that since the minority officers no longer had any personal stake in the controversy, a ruling by the federal court "would amount to no more than an advisory opinion." *Id.*

The court of appeals also rejected the state civil service officials' argument that the controversy remained alive because the district court's orders allegedly prohibited the Massachusetts Civil Service Commission from adjudicating the back pay claims. The court noted that "[a]ccording to the established practice of the federal courts, when a case is found moot, the district court's judgment will be vacated." *Id.* Therefore, even assuming that the district court's orders inhibited the Commission's adjudication, "[they] will no longer do so." *Id.* The civil service officials, notably, have not petitioned for certiorari.

### **Reasons for Denying the Writ**

#### **I. THE COURT OF APPEALS' MOOTNESS DECISION DOES NOT WARRANT REVIEW**

Petitioners seek certiorari review of a decision which does not warrant such attention. The decision of the court of appeals addressed only a question of mootness, and the resolution of that question is unlikely to have impact beyond the confines of these cases.

Indeed, even within the confines of these cases, the decision of the court of appeals had an impact which was palliative only.

The court of appeals found the controversy originally before it to be moot. That court, just as had the Court previously, followed the "established practice" for treating civil cases which become moot while on appeal and vacated the lower court's orders. *See United States v. Munsingwear, Inc.*, 340 U.S. 36, 39 (1950). Thus the continuing mandate, and even precedential significance, of the district court and court of appeals' prior decisions have been eliminated.

## II. THERE IS NO CONFLICT WITH PRIOR DECISIONS OF THE COURT, FOR THE DECISION OF THE COURT OF APPEALS IS BASED ON WELL ESTABLISHED PRINCIPLES OF FEDERAL JURISDICTION

The court of appeals held that the controversy is moot because the minority officers no longer have any personal stake in the outcome. It is a fundamental principle of federal jurisdiction that all parties must retain a personal stake in the resolution of a controversy; hence review of a decision based on this principle is not warranted.

In order to satisfy the case or controversy requirement of Article III, a complaining party must show "an injury to himself which is likely to be redressed by a favorable decision." *Simon v. Eastern Ky. Welfare Rights Org.*, 426 U.S. 26, 38 (1976). Without any present or threatened injury, a party has no personal stake in a controversy, and the court cannot be assured of "that concrete adverseness which sharpens the presentation of issues upon which the court so largely depends for illumination of difficult constitutional issues." *Baker v. Carr*, 369 U.S. 186, 204 (1962). As the Court stated in *United States Parole Comm'n v. Geraghty*, 445 U.S. 388, 403 (1980), "the purpose of the 'personal stake' requirement is to assure that the case is in a form capable of judicial resolution."

As a result of the Tregor Act, minority officers no longer risk loss of their jobs due to application of the seniority statute to

the City's now abandoned layoff program. The court of appeals found that the threat of injury to the minority officers which had originally created a live controversy is now removed. The court concluded that the minority officers "now lack the 'personal stake' necessary to keep alive the controversy which engendered this proceeding." *Boston Chapter, NAACP v. Beecher, supra*, 716 F.2d at 933.

In their petitions for certiorari, the unions argue that state law claims of reinstated non-minority officers which are assertedly pending before the Massachusetts Civil Service Commission are sufficient to keep the federal controversy alive. The minority officers, however, are not parties to the state administrative proceedings and have no stake in their resolution. Since the minority officers have no stake in the resolution of someone else's back pay claims, the existence of those claims cannot create a live controversy involving the minority officers. *See Flast v. Cohen*, 392 U.S. 83, 99 (1968). A decision by the federal court, rendered in the absence of a present case or controversy between the unions and minority officers, "would amount to no more than an advisory opinion." *Boston Chapter, NAACP v. Beecher, supra*, 716 F.2d at 933.

Indeed, two of the three parties with a real interest in the back pay proceedings are not even before the Court. The state has not filed a petition for certiorari; and the City, which is the only party with an interest adverse to the union members' claims for back pay, has never taken any position on the merits of the federal issues during the entire course of federal court proceedings. If the only controversy which persists is the union members' claims for back pay, that controversy is best resolved in the state administrative proceedings where the parties with truly adverse interests can advocate their respective positions.

### III. PETITIONERS' CLAIMS DEPEND UPON MATTERS OF FACT NOT IN THE RECORD AND UPON QUESTIONS OF STATE LAW

The petitions are based on factual matters which are not in the record and on questionable interpretations of state law. The Court should decline review under these circumstances.

The unions' petitions are premised on the assertion that a federal court decision on the merits will affect the resolution of the union members' claims for back pay. *See* Fire Petition at 7; Police Petition at 11. This assertion cannot be adequately evaluated by the Court, however, for the record below contains virtually no information relating to claims of non-minority officers for back pay or the status of any Massachusetts Civil Service Commission proceedings relating to such claims. There was before the court of appeals, to be sure, an assertion that back pay claims had been brought by some officers. Beyond that, however, there is nothing in the federal court record reflecting the nature of the claims assertedly made in the administrative proceedings, identifying the issues raised by the parties who are participating in those proceedings, discussing the state law applicable to those claims or clarifying the present stage of the proceedings.<sup>1</sup> In this regard, the unions' petitions are notably devoid of any record citation which would disclose what is taking place in the state administrative proceedings or reveal how a federal court decision would influence the outcome of those proceedings.

In any event, the back pay claims must be made under state law, and it is likely that the Civil Service Commission will resolve, or already has resolved, those claims without requiring

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<sup>1</sup> The minority officers, in fact, understand that on February 11, 1982, the Civil Service Commission denied the police officers' claims for back pay, and that no appeal was taken from that decision to the state superior court. Consequently, it would appear that there is no proceeding, of any sort, presently pending with respect to the impact of the layoff program on police officers.

any disposition of the federal issues raised in the federal court proceedings. If resolution of the federal controversy is unnecessary to disposition of the union members' claims for back pay, then even the unions would have no basis to claim a continued interest in the outcome of the federal proceedings.

Presumably the issue raised in civil service proceedings is whether layoffs were "justified". Mass. Gen. Laws c. 31, § 43. This is an issue of Massachusetts law, not federal law. To the extent, moreover, that the administrative proceedings might inquire into whether layoffs in compliance with a federal court order are justified, Massachusetts law, as well as federal law, indicates that there is no likelihood that federal appellate review, even reversal, would have any bearing upon civil service claims. The layoffs were accomplished pursuant to outstanding federal court orders. As such, they were justified at the time they were implemented. This justification cannot be lost by any subsequent reversal of the orders. A court order validly entered, when the court has both subject matter and personal jurisdiction, gives rise to a plain legal duty to obey until it is stayed, vacated or reversed. *See Town of Stow v. Marinelli*, 352 Mass. 738, 743-44, 227 N.E.2d 708, 713 (1967); *Maness v. Meyers*, 419 U.S. 449, 458-59 (1975); *United States v. United Mine Workers of America*, 330 U.S. 258, 293 (1947).<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> The Firefighters Union asserts that the court of appeals found that resolution of the federal law issues "will influence" the disposition of the back pay claims. Fire Petition at 7. This mischaracterizes the opinion of the court of appeals. The court merely assumed *arguendo* that a federal court decision "might facilitate" the resolution of the back pay claims, and held that in any event, "such a ruling now — rendered in the absence of a present case or controversy — would amount to no more than an advisory opinion." *Boston Chapter, NAACP v. Beacher*, 716 F.2d at 933.

**Conclusion**

For the foregoing reasons, the petitions for a writ of certiorari should be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Appendix****MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS*****Chapter 31, § 43***

If a person aggrieved by a decision of an appointing authority made pursuant to section forty-one shall, within ten days after receiving written notice of such decision, so request in writing to the commission, he shall be given a hearing before a member of the commission or some disinterested person designated by the chairman of the commission. Said hearing shall be commenced in not less than three nor more than ten days after the filing of such request and shall be completed within thirty days after such filing unless, in either case, both parties shall otherwise agree in a writing filed with the commission, or unless the member or hearing officer determines, in his discretion, that a continuance is necessary or advisable. Upon completion of the hearing, the member or hearing officer shall file forthwith a report of his findings with the commission. Within thirty days after the filing of such report, the commission shall render a written decision and send notice thereof to all parties concerned.

The commission shall affirm the action of the appointing authority if it finds that such action is justified. Otherwise it shall reverse such action, and the person concerned shall be returned to his position without loss of compensation or other rights. The commission may also modify any penalty imposed by the appointing authority.

Any hearing pursuant to this section shall be public if either party so requests in writing. The person who requested the hearing shall be allowed to answer, personally or by counsel, any of the charges which have been made against him.

The decision of the commission made pursuant to this section shall be subject to judicial review as provided in section forty-four.

Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays shall not be counted in the computation of any period of time specified in this section.